

APPENDIX A.

Text of Statute Involved.

Chapter 212.

Florida Statutes.

Tax on Sales, Use and Certain Transactions.

212.01 Short title.—This chapter shall be known as the “Florida revenue act of 1949” and the taxes imposed herein shall be in addition to all other taxes imposed by law.

212.02 Definitions.—The following terms and phrases when used in this chapter shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

(1) “Person” includes any individual, firm, co-partnership, joint adventure, association, corporation, estate, trust, business trust, receiver, syndicate, or other group or combination acting as a unit, and shall include any political subdivision, municipality, state agency, bureau or department, and the plural as well as the singular number.

(2) “Sale” mean (a) any transfer of title or possession, or both, exchange, barter, lease or rental, conditional or otherwise, in any manner or by any means whatsoever of tangible personal property for a consideration, and (b) shall include the rental of living quarters, sleeping or housekeeping accommodations in hotels, apartment houses or rooming houses, tourist or trailer camps, as hereinafter defined in this chapter, and (c) includes the producing, fabricating, processing, printing or imprinting of tangible per-

sonal property for a consideration for consumers who furnish either directly or indirectly the materials used in the producing, fabricating, processing, printing or imprinting, and (d) the furnishing, repairing, or serving for a consideration of any tangible personal property consumed on the premises of the person furnishing, repairing, or serving such tangible personal property.

A transaction whereby the possession of property is transferred but the seller retains title as security for the payment of the price, shall be deemed a sale.

(3) (a) "Retail sale" or a "sale at retail" means a sale to consumer or to any person for any purpose other than for resale in the form of tangible personal property, and shall mean and include all such transactions that may be made in lieu of "retail sales" or "sales at retail." A resale must be in strict compliance with rules and regulations and any dealer making a sale for resale which is not in strict compliance with rules and regulations shall himself be liable for and pay the tax.

(b) The terms "retail sales," "sale at retail," "use," "storage" and "consumption" shall not include the sale, use, storage or consumption of industrial materials for future processing, manufacture or conversion into articles of tangible personal property for resale where such industrial materials become a component part of the finished product or are used directly and immediately dissipated in fabricating, converting or processing such materials or parts thereof, nor shall such term include materials, containers, labels, sacks or bags intended to be used one time only for packaging tangible personal property for shipment or sale.

(c) The term "gross sales" means the sum total of all retail sales of tangible personal property as defined herein, without any deduction whatsoever of any kind or character, except as provided in this chapter.

(4) "Sales price" means the total amount for which tangible personal property, including any services that are a part of the sale, valued in money, whether paid in money or otherwise, and includes any amount for which credit is given to the purchaser by the seller, without any deduction therefrom on account of the cost of the property sold, the cost of materials used, labor or service costs, interest charged, losses, or any other expense whatsoever; provided that cash discounts allowed and taken on sales shall not be included, nor shall the sales price include the amount charged for labor or services rendered in installing, applying, remodeling or repairing the property sold.

(5) "Cost price" means the actual cost of articles of tangible personal property without any deductions therefrom on account of the cost of materials used, labor or services costs, transportation charges, or any expenses whatsoever.

(6) "Lease," "let," or "rental" means leasing or renting of living quarters, sleeping or housekeeping accommodations in hotels, apartment houses, rooming houses, tourist or trailer camps, the same being defined as follows:

(a) Every building or other structure kept, used, maintained, advertised or held out to the public to be a place where sleeping accommodations are supplied for pay to transient or permanent guests or tenants, in which ten or more rooms are furnished for the accommodation of such guests, and having one or more dining rooms or cafes where meals or lunches are served to such transient or permanent guests, such sleeping accommodations and dining rooms or cafes being conducted in the same building or buildings in connection therewith, shall, for the purpose of this chapter, be deemed a hotel.

(b) Any building or part thereof, where separate accommodations for more than two families living independ-

ently of each other are supplied to transient or permanent guests or tenants, shall for the purpose of this chapter be deemed an apartment house.

(c) Every house, boat, vehicle, motor court, trailer court or other structure or any place or location kept, used, maintained, advertised or held out to the public to be a place where living quarters, sleeping or housekeeping accommodations are supplied for pay to transient or permanent guests or tenants, whether in one or adjoining buildings, shall for the purpose of this chapter be deemed a rooming house.

(d) In all hotels, apartment houses and rooming houses within the meaning of this chapter, the parlor, dining room, sleeping porches, kitchen, office and sample rooms shall be construed to mean rooms.

(e) A tourist camp is a place where two or more tents, tent houses or camp cottages are located and offered by a person or municipality for sleeping or eating accommodations, most generally to the transient public for either a direct money consideration or an indirect benefit to the lessor or owner in connection with a related business. A trailer camp is a place where space is offered, with or without service facilities, by any persons or municipality to the public for the parking and accommodation of two or more automobile trailers which are used for lodging, for either a direct money consideration or an indirect benefit to the lessor or owner in connection with a related business, such space being hereby defined as "living quarters," and the rental price thereof shall include all service charges paid to the lessor.

(f) "Lease," "let" or "rental" also means the leasing or rental of tangible personal property and the possession or use thereof by the lessee or rentee for a consideration, without transfer of the title of such property, except as expressly provided to the contrary herein. Provided that,

where two taxpayers, in connection with the interchange of facilities, rent or lease property, each to the other, for use in providing or furnishing any of the services mentioned in § 167.431, the term "lease" or "rental" shall mean only the net amount of rental involved.

(7) "Storage" means and includes any keeping or retention in this state of tangible personal property for use or consumption in this state, or for any purpose other than sale at retail in the regular course of business.

(8) "Use" means and includes the exercise of any right or power over tangible personal property incident to the ownership thereof, or interest therein, except that it shall not include the sale at retail of that property in the regular course of business.

(9) "Business" includes any activity engaged in by any person, or caused to be engaged in by him with the object of gain, benefit, or advantage, either direct or indirect. The term "business" shall not be construed in this chapter to include occasional and isolated sales or transactions involving tangible personal property by a person who does not hold himself out as engaged in business, but shall include all charges of admission and all rentals and leases of living quarters, sleeping or housekeeping accommodations in hotels, apartment houses, rooming houses, tourist or trailer camps, as hereinbefore defined in this chapter, made subject to a tax imposed by this chapter.

(10) "Retailer" means and include every person engaged in the business of making sales at retail, or for distribution, or use, or consumption, or storage to be used or consumed in this state.

(11) The term "comptroller" means and includes the comptroller of the state or his duly authorized assistants.

(12) "Tangible personal property" means and includes personal property, which may be seen, weighed, measured, felt or touched, or is in any other manner perceptible to the senses. The term "tangible personal property" shall not include stocks, bonds, notes, insurance, or other obligations or securities, or intangibles as defined by the intangible tax law of the state nor pari-mutuel tickets sold or issued under the racing laws of the state.

(13) The term "use tax" referred to in this chapter includes the "use," the "consumption," the "distribution," and the "storage" as herein defined.

(14) The term "intoxicating" or "alcoholic beverages" referred to in this chapter includes all such beverages as are so defined or may be hereafter defined by the laws of the state.

(15) The terms "cigarettes" or "tobacco" or "tobacco products" referred to in this chapter includes all such products as are defined or may be hereafter defined by the laws of the state.

(16) The term "admissions" shall mean and include the net sum of money after deduction of any federal taxes for admitting a person or vehicle, or persons, to any place of amusement, or where there is any show, game or exhibition, and where any charge is made by way of sale of tickets, gate charges, seat charges, box charges, season pass charges, and cover charges; except that in case the amount paid for admission is less than forty cents, exclusive of federal tax, no tax shall be imposed. Provided, however, that whenever the federal tax on amusement admissions becomes ten percent or less on such admissions, then the foregoing exemption on admissions of less than forty cents shall terminate beginning the first day of the first month immediately following.

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212.03 Transient rentals tax; rate, procedure, enforcement, etc.—

(1) It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that every person is exercising a taxable privilege who engages in the business of renting, leasing or letting any living quarters, sleeping or housekeeping accommodations in, from, or a part of, or in connection with any hotel, apartment house, rooming house, tourist or trailer camp, as hereinbefore defined in this chapter. For the exercise of said privilege a tax is hereby levied as follows: in the amount equal to three per cent of and on the total rental charged for such living quarters, sleeping or housekeeping accommodations by the person charging or collecting the rental; provided that such tax shall apply to hotels, apartment houses, rooming houses, tourist or trailer camps, as hereinbefore defined in this chapter, whether or not there be in connection with any of the same, any dining rooms, cafes or other places where meals or lunches are sold or served to guests.

(2) The tax provided for herein shall be in addition to the total amount of the rental and shall be charged by the lessor or person receiving the rent in and by said rental arrangement to the lessee or person paying the rental, and shall be due and payable at the time of the receipt of such rental payment by the lessor or person, as defined in this chapter, who receives said rental or payment. The owner, lessor or person receiving the rent shall remit the tax to the comptroller at the times and in the manner hereinafter provided for "dealers" to remit taxes under this chapter. The same duties imposed by this chapter upon dealers in tangible personal property respecting the collection and remission of the tax, the making of returns, the keeping of books, records and accounts and the compliance with the rules and regulations of the comptroller in the administration of this chapter shall apply to and

be binding upon all persons who manage or operate hotels, apartment houses, rooming houses, tourist and trailer camps, and to all persons who collect or receive such rents on behalf of such owner or lessor taxable under this chapter.

(3) Where rentals are received by way of property, goods, wares, merchandise, services or other things of value, the tax shall be at the rate of three per cent of the value of said property services or other things of value.

(4) The tax levied by this section shall not apply to, be imposed upon, or collected from any person who shall reside continuously longer than six months at any one hotel, apartment house, rooming house, tourist or trailer camp, and shall have paid the tax levied by this section for six months of residence in any one hotel, rooming house, apartment house, tourist or trailer camp.

(7) The tax imposed by this section shall constitute a lien on the property of the lessee or rentee of any sleeping accommodations in the same manner as and shall be collectible as are liens authorized and imposed by §§ 85.19 and 85.20.

(8) For the purposes of this section, six months shall mean: one hundred and eighty consecutive days.

212.04 Admissions tax; rate; procedure, enforcement etc.—It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that every person exercising a taxable privilege who sells or receives anything of value, by way of admissions and that every person who sells admissions to any place of amusement, or for the privilege of entering or staying in any place of amusement, inclusive of admissions to theatres, outdoor theatres, shows, exhibitions, games, races and any place where charge is made through any selling of tickets, gate charges, seat charges, box charges, season pass

charges, and cover charges or receipts of anything of value measured on an admission or length of stay, or seat box accommodations, in any place of business or where there is any exhibition or entertainment, shall be subject to a tax for the exercise of such privilege. Provided, however, that no municipality of the state shall hereafter levy an excise tax on amusement admissions. For the exercise of said privilege a tax is levied as follows:

(1) At the rate of three per cent of sales price or the actual value received for such admissions, the said three per cent to be added and collected with all such admissions from the purchaser thereof, and such tax shall be paid for the exercise of the privilege as defined in the preceding paragraph.

(2) The sale price or actual value of admission shall, for the purpose of this chapter, be that price remaining after deduction of federal taxes, if any, imposed upon said admission; except that in case the amount paid for admission is less than forty cents, exclusive of federal tax, no tax shall be imposed; provided, however, that whenever the existing federal tax on admissions becomes ten percent or less then the exemptions applying to admissions of less than forty cents shall terminate beginning the first day of the month immediately following. There shall also be exempted all admissions to places of amusement operating under the supervision of the state racing commission.

(3) Such taxes shall be paid and remitted at the same time and in the same manner as provided for remitting taxes on sales of tangible personal property, as hereinafter provided.

(4) Each person who, after November 1, 1949, exercises the privilege of charging admission taxes, as herein de-

fined, shall apply for and at that time shall furnish the information and comply with the provisions of § 212.18, not inconsistent herewith, and receive from the comptroller a certificate of right to exercise such privilege, which certificate shall apply to each place of business where such privilege is exercised, and shall be in the manner and form prescribed by the comptroller. Such certificate shall be issued upon payment to the comptroller of a registration fee of one dollar by the applicant. The county tax collectors are hereby made the agents of the comptroller for the purpose of issuing such certificates within the respective counties and upon application they shall issue such certificate, the county tax collector shall forward a copy of each of the same to the comptroller. Each person exercising the privilege of charging such admission taxes as herein defined shall cause such records and accounts showing the admission, which shall be in the form as the comptroller may from time to time prescribe inclusive of records of all tickets numbered and issued for a period of not less than two years, and inclusive of all bills or checks of customers who are charged any of the taxes defined herein, showing the charge made to each for a period of not less than two years. The comptroller shall be empowered to use each and every one of the powers granted herein to the comptroller to discover the amount of tax to be paid by each such person, and to enforce the payment thereof as are hereby granted the comptroller for the discovery and enforcement of the payment of taxes hereinafter levied on the sales of tangible personal property. The failure of any person to pay such taxes before the twenty-first day of the succeeding month after the same are collected shall render such person liable to the same penalties that are hereafter imposed upon such person for being delinquent in the payment of taxes imposed upon the sales of tangible personal property and the failure of any person to render returns and to pay taxes as prescribed herein shall render such person sub-

ject to the same penalties, by way of charges for delinquencies, at the rate of five per cent per month for the total amount of tax delinquent up to a total of twenty-five per cent of such tax, and at the rate of fifty per cent penalty for attempted evasion of payment of any such tax, or for any attempt to file false or misleading returns that are required to be filed by the comptroller.

(5) All of the provisions of this chapter relating to collection, investigation, discovery and aids to collection of taxes upon sales of tangible personal property shall likewise apply to all privileges described or referred to in this section, and the obligations imposed in this chapter upon "retailers" are hereby imposed upon the seller of such admissions. Where tickets or admissions are sold and not used but returned and credited by the seller, the seller may apply to the comptroller for a credit allowance for such returned tickets or admissions where advance payments have been made by the buyer and have been returned by the seller upon such form and in such manner as the comptroller may from time to time prescribe, and the comptroller may upon obtaining satisfactory proof of the refunds on the part of the seller credit the seller for taxes paid upon admissions that have been returned unused to the purchaser of those admissions. The seller of admissions upon the payment of the taxes before they become delinquent and the rendering of the returns in accordance with the requirement of the comptroller, and as provided in this law, shall be entitled to a discount of three per cent of the amount of taxes upon the payment of the same before the same become delinquent, in the same manner as permitted the sellers of tangible personal property in this chapter.

(6) Admission taxes required to be paid by this chapter shall be paid to the comptroller by the owner or the collector of such admission, and where any place of business is sold or transferred by any owner, or owners, thereof,

wherein such admission taxes have or are accruing shall be obligated before such sale becomes effective to notify the comptroller of such pending sale and secure from the comptroller a permit as prescribed in this section, and the purchaser shall become obligated to withhold from the sales price such sum of money as will safely be required to discharge all accrued admission taxes upon such places of business, and that upon the failure of any such purchaser or purchasers shall become obligated to pay all accrued admission taxes, and the same shall become a lien upon all the purchaser's assets until the same shall have been paid and fully discharged.

(7) That the taxes under this section shall become a lien upon the assets of the owner of any business exercising the privilege of selling admissions, and the collection of such admissions, as defined hereunder, and shall remain a lien until fully paid and discharged, and such lien may be enforced in the manner provided hereinafter for the enforcement of the collection of taxes imposed upon the sales of tangible personal property.

(8) The word "owners" as used in this law shall be taken to include and mean all persons obligated to collect and pay over to the state the tax imposed under this section, inclusive of all holders of permits issued as herein provided, and wherever the words "owner" or "owners" are used herein it shall be taken to mean and include all persons liable for such admission taxes unless and except it appear from the context that the words are descriptive of property owners.

212.05 Sales, storage, use tax.—It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that every person is exercising a taxable privilege who engages in the business of selling tangible personal property at retail in this state, or who rents or furnishes any of the things or services taxable

under this chapter, or who stores for use or consumption in this state any item or article of tangible personal property as defined herein and who leases or rents such property within the state. For the exercise of said privilege a tax is levied as follows:

(1) At the rate of three per cent of the sales price of each item or article of tangible personal property when sold at retail in this state; the tax may be computed on gross sales for the purpose of remitting the amount of tax due the state, and to include each and every retail sale.

(2) At the rate of three per cent of the cost price of each item or article of tangible personal property when the same is not sold but is used, consumed, distributed or stored for use or consumption in this state; provided there shall be no duplication of the tax.

(3) At the rate of three per cent of the gross proceeds derived from the lease or rental of tangible personal property, as defined herein, except the rental of motion picture film, where the lease or rental of such property is an established business or part of an established business, or the same is incidental or germane to said business.

(4) At the rate of three per cent of the lease or rental price paid by lessee or rentee, or contracted or agreed to be paid by lessee or rentee, to the owner of the tangible personal property.

(5) The said tax shall be collected from the dealer as defined herein and paid at the time and in the manner as hereinafter provided.

(6) The tax so levied is and shall be in addition to all other taxes, whether levied in the form of excise, license or privilege taxes, and shall be in addition to all other fees and taxes levied.

212.06 Same; collectible from dealers; dealers defined; dealers to collect from purchasers; legislative intent as to scope of tax.—

(1) The aforesaid tax at the rate of three per cent of the retail sales price, as of the moment of sale, or three per cent of the cost price, as of the moment of purchase, as the case may be, shall be collectible from all dealers as herein defined on the sale at retail, the use, the consumption, the distribution and the storage for use or consumption in this state, of tangible personal property.

(2) (a) The term "dealer" as used in this chapter shall include every person, as used in this chapter, who manufactures or produces tangible personal property for sale at retail, for use, consumption or distribution, or for storage to be used or consumed in this state.

(b) The term "dealer" is further defined to mean every person, as used in this chapter, who imports or causes to be imported, tangible personal property from any state or foreign country, for sale at retail, for use, or consumption, or distribution, or for storage to be used or consumed in this state.

(c) The term "dealer" is further defined to mean every person, as used in this chapter, who sells at retail, or who offers for sale at retail, or who has in his possession for sale at retail, or for use or consumption, or distribution, or storage to be used or consumed in this state, tangible personal property as defined herein.

(d) The term "dealer" is further defined to mean any person who has sold at retail, or used, or consumed, or distributed, or stored for use or consumption in this state, tangible personal property and who cannot prove that the tax levied by this chapter has been paid on the sale at retail, the use, the consumption, the distribution, or the storage of said tangible personal property.

(e) The term "dealer" is further defined to mean any person, as used in this chapter, who leases or rents tangible personal property, as defined in this chapter, for a consideration, permitting the use or possession of said property without transferring title thereto, except as expressly provided for to the contrary herein.

(f) The term "dealer" is further defined to mean any person as used in this chapter, who maintains or has within this state, directly or by a subsidiary, an office, distributing house, salesroom, or house, warehouse or other place of business.

(g) "Dealer" also means and includes every person who solicits business either by representatives or by the distribution of catalogs or other advertising matter and by reason thereof receives and accepts orders from consumers in the state, and such dealer shall collect the tax imposed by this chapter from the purchaser and no action either in law or in equity on a sale or transaction as provided by the terms of this chapter may be had in this state by any such dealer unless it be affirmatively shown that the provisions of this chapter have been fully complied with.

(h) "Dealer" also means and includes every person who, as a representative, agent, or solicitor, of an out-of-state principal or principals, solicits, receives and accepts orders from consumers in the state for future delivery and whose principal refuses to register as a dealer.

(3) Every "dealer" making sales, whether within or outside the state, of tangible personal property, for distribution, storage, or use or other consumption, in this state, shall at the time of making sales, collect the tax imposed by this chapter from the purchaser.

(4) On all tangible personal property imported or caused to be imported from other states, territories, the District of Columbia, or any foreign country, and used by him, the

“dealer” as herein defined, shall pay the tax imposed by this chapter on all articles of tangible personal property so imported and used, the same as if the said articles had been sold at retail for use or consumption in this state. For the purposes of this chapter, the use, or consumption, or distribution, or storage to be used or consumed in this state of tangible personal property, shall each be equivalent to a sale at retail, and the tax shall thereupon immediately levy and be collected in the manner provided herein, provided there shall be no duplication of the tax in any event.

(5) It is not the intention of this chapter to levy a tax upon tangible personal property imported, produced or manufactured in this state for export, provided that tangible personal property shall not be considered as being imported, produced or manufactured for export unless the importer, producer or manufacturer delivers the same to a licensed exporter for exporting, or to a common carrier for shipment outside the state or mails the same by United States mail to a destination outside the state; nor is it the intention of this chapter to levy a tax on radio broadcasting, or any sale which the state is prohibited from taxing under the constitution or laws of the United States.

(6) It is, however, the intention of this chapter to levy a tax on the sale at retail, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of tangible personal property after it has come to rest in this state and has become a part of the mass property of this state.

(7) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use or consumption, or distribution, or storage of tangible personal property for use or consumption in this state upon which a like tax equal to or greater than the amount imposed by this chapter has been paid in another state, the proof of payment of such tax to be accord-

ing to rules and regulations made by the comptroller. If the amount of tax paid in another state is not equal to or greater than the amount of tax imposed by this chapter, then the dealer shall pay to the ~~comptroller~~ an amount sufficient to make the tax paid in the other state and in this state equal to the amount imposed by this chapter.

(8) It is further specifically provided that the "use tax" shall not apply to tangible personal property owned or acquired in this state, or imported into this state or held or stored in this state prior to November 1, 1949. But the "use tax" will apply to all tangible personal property imported or caused to be imported into this state on or after November 1, 1949, unless it appears that said property has previously borne a sales or use tax in another state equal to or greater than the tax imposed by this chapter.

(9) The taxes imposed by this chapter shall not apply to the use, sale or distribution of religious publications, Bibles, hymn books, prayer books, vestments, altar paraphernalia, sacramental chalices and like church service and ceremonial raiments and equipment.

212.07 Same; tax added to purchase price; dealer not to absorb; penalties; general exemptions.—

(1) The privilege tax herein levied measured by retail sales shall be collected by the dealers from the purchaser or consumer.

(2) Dealers shall, as far as practicable, add the amounts of the tax imposed under this chapter to the sale price or charge, which shall be a debt from the purchaser or consumer to the dealer, until paid, and shall be recoverable at law in the same manner as other debts. Any dealer who shall neglect, fail or refuse to collect the tax herein provided, upon any, every, and all retail sales made by him, or his agents, or employees, of tangible personal property

which is subject to the tax imposed by this chapter, shall be liable for and pay the tax himself.

(3) Any dealer who shall fail, neglect or refuse to collect the tax herein provided, either by himself or through his agents or employees, shall, in addition to the penalty of being liable for and paying the tax himself, be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than three months, or both, in the discretion of the court.

(4) A person engaged in any business taxable under this chapter shall not advertise or hold out to the public, in any manner, directly or indirectly, that he will absorb all or any part of the tax, or that he will relieve the purchaser of the payment of all or any part of the tax. A person who violates this provision with respect to advertising shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars, nor more than two hundred fifty dollars, or imprisonment in the county jail for not exceeding three months, or both, in the discretion of the court. For a second or subsequent offense, the penalty shall be double.

(5) The gross proceeds derived from the sale in this state of livestock, poultry and other farm products, direct from the farm are exempted from the tax levied by this chapter, provided that such sales are made directly by the producers. The producers shall be entitled to such exemptions although said livestock so sold in this state may have been registered with a breeders or registry association prior to said sale and although said sale takes place at a livestock show or race meeting, so long as said sale is made by the original producer and within this state. When sales of livestock, poultry or other farm products are made to consumers by any person, as defined herein,

other than a producer, they are not exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

(6) It is specifically provided that the "use tax" as defined herein shall not apply to livestock and livestock products, to poultry and poultry products, to farm and agricultural products, when produced by the farmer and used by him and members of his family and his employees on the farm.

(7) Provided, however, that each and every agricultural commodity sold by any person, other than a producer, to any other person who purchases not for direct consumption but for the purpose of acquiring raw products for use or for sale in the process of preparing, finishing or manufacturing such agricultural commodity for the ultimate retail consumer trade shall be and is exempted from any and all provisions of this chapter, including payment of the tax applicable to the sale, storage, use, transfer or any other utilization or handling thereof, except when such agricultural commodity is actually sold as a marketable or finished product to the ultimate consumer, and in no case shall more than one tax be exacted.

(8) The term "agricultural commodity," for the purposes hereof, shall mean horticultural, poultry and farm products, and livestock and livestock products.

21208 **Same; specific exemptions.**—The sale at retail, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state, of the following tangible personal property is hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

(1) General groceries, including particularly, food and food products, milk, butter, eggs, meats (fresh, salt and cured), flour, meal, cereals, bread, vegetables and vegetable juices, fruit and fruit juices, canned foods (not including

gum and soft drinks, or articles that are not edible), also candy where the price at which the same is sold is twenty-five cents or less. "Food products" as used herein shall mean and include cereal and cereal products, milk and milk products, oleomargarine, meat and meat products, fish and fish products, fruit and fruit products, spices, salt and sugar, coffee and coffee substitutes, teas and cocoa, condiments, relishes, spreads, shortening and flavoring, and also bakery products; but shall not include meals, packaged lunches or sandwiches prepared or sold in or by restaurants, drug stores, lunch counters, cafeterias, hotels, or other like places of business, or by any business or place licensed by the hotel and restaurant commission of the state.

(2) There shall be exempt from so much of the tax imposed by this chapter as shall exceed three hundred dollars on the sale, use, storage or other consumption in this State of machines and equipment and parts therefor used in farming, mining, quarrying, compounding, processing, producing or manufacturing of tangible personal property for sale, or used in furnishing communication or transportation services, provided that the term "machine and equipment and parts therefor" as used herein, shall mean only any machines and equipment and parts therefor which are specifically designed and used for farming, mining, quarrying, compounding, processing, producing, manufacturing, storing or refrigerating tangible personal property, or used in furnishing communication or transportation services. The comptroller is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations not inconsistent with this section further defining "machines and equipment and parts therefor" for the purpose of enforcement of uniformity in tax collections hereunder.

(3) There shall also be exempted all sales made to the United States government, the state or any county, municipality, or political subdivision of this state and in

cluding sales or tangible personal property made to contractors employed by any such government or political subdivision thereof where such tangible personal property goes into and becomes a part of public works owned by such government or political subdivision thereof. Also exempted are vehicles and vessels and parts thereof used to transport passengers or property in interstate and foreign commerce.

(4) (a) Also exempted from the tax imposed by this chapter are fuels (including crude oil, fuel oil, gasoline, kerosene, lubricating oil, diesel oil, coal, coke and cordwood), motor vehicles and motor-propelled agricultural equipment (not including parts thereof when sold as separate transactions), cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, beer, water (not exempting mineral water or carbonated water), ice, medicine, compounded in a retail establishment by a pharmacist licensed by the state according to an individual prescription or prescriptions written by a practitioner of the healing arts licensed by the state, and common household medicinal remedies recommended and generally sold for the relief of pain, ailments, distress or disorders of the human body, according to a list prescribed and approved by the state board of health, which said list shall be certified to the comptroller from time to time and be included in the rules and regulations promulgated by the comptroller. Other exemptions are electric power or energy, communication services, natural, artificial or liquified petroleum gases, nets and ships used directly in and by licensed commercial fisheries, feeds, fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides used for application on crops or groves, and containers used for processing farm products and also field and garden seeds; newspapers, film rentals, school books and school lunches. Also exempted are professional, insurance or personal service transactions which involve sales as inconsequential elements for which no separate charges are made.

(b) The above exempted personal service transactions do not exempt the sale of information services involving the furnishing of printed, mimeographed, multigraphed matter or matter duplicating written or printed matter in any other manner, other than professional services and services of employees, agents or other persons acting in a representative or fiduciary capacity or information services furnished to newspapers. "Information services" shall mean and include the services of collecting, compiling or analyzing information of any kind or nature and furnishing reports thereof to other persons.

(5) Patients, inmates and guests of any hospital, or institution designed and operated primarily for the care of persons who are ill, aged, infirm, mentally or physically incapacitated, or for any reason dependent upon special care or attention, are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter on rentals and meals.

(6) There shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter cheesecloth for shading tobacco and seed beds, machines and equipment used in plowing, planting, cultivating and harvesting crops; articles sold or leased to churches or other nonprofit religious, nonprofit educational, or nonprofit charitable institutions in the course of their customary nonprofit religious, nonprofit educational, or nonprofit charitable activities; artificial eyes, limbs, crutches, eyeglasses, dentures, hearing devices, prosthetic and orthopedic appliances, funerals, when the total cost thereof is five hundred dollars or less.

(7) There shall likewise be exempt from the tax imposed by this act all charges for services rendered by radio and television stations, including advertising, line charges, talent fees or charges, and for film and transcriptions and other expendable items used in producing radio or television broadcasts.

(8) There shall likewise be exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter articles of clothing, including shoes, hats and underwear, where the price at which the same is sold is ten dollars or less, on any single item thereof; provided, that sales of articles of clothing ordinarily sold or offered for sale as a pair, or as a suit or ensemble, shall be considered single items under this exemption, provided fabrics by the yard classified as wearing apparel fabrics shall be included in the term "articles of clothing."

(9) There shall likewise be exempt from the tax on admissions levied by this chapter, all admissions to athletic contests or other sports events, not prohibited by law, the proceeds of which go entirely to the support of a hospital for crippled children, which hospital is subsidized by the Florida crippled children's commission, out of state funds; provided that, in order to qualify for such exemptions, no part of the net proceeds of such athletic contest or other sports event shall inure to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual.

212.09 Same; trade-ins deducted.—

(1) Where used articles are taken in trade, or a series of trades, as a credit or part payment on the sale of new articles, the tax levied by this chapter shall be paid on the sales price of the new article, less the credit for the used article taken in trade.

(2) Where used articles are taken in trade, or a series of trades, as a credit or part payment on the sale of used articles, the tax levied by this chapter shall be paid on the sales price of the used article less the credit for the used article taken in trade.

212.10 Sales of business; liability for tax, procedure, penalty for violation.—

(1) If any dealer liable for any tax, interest or penalty levied hereunder shall sell out his business or stock of goods, or shall quit the business, he shall make a final return and payment within fifteen days after the date of selling or quitting the business; his successor, successors, or assigns, if any, shall withhold a sufficient portion of the purchase money to safely cover the account of such taxes, interest, and penalties due and unpaid until such former owner shall produce a receipt from the comptroller showing that they have been paid or a certificate stating that no taxes, interest, or penalties are due. If the purchasers of a business or stock of goods shall fail to withhold a sufficient amount of the purchase money as above provided, he shall be personally liable for the payment of the taxes, interest and penalties accruing and unpaid on account of the operation of the business by any former owner, owners or assigns.

(2) In the event any dealer is delinquent in the payment of the tax herein provided for, the comptroller may give notice of the amount of such delinquency by registered mail to all persons having in their possession or under their control any credits or other personal property belonging to such dealer or owing any debt to such dealer at the time of receipt by them of such notice, and thereafter any person so notified shall neither transfer nor make any other disposition of such credits or other personal property, or debts until the comptroller shall have consented to a transfer or disposition, or until thirty days shall have elapsed from and after the receipt of such notice. All persons so notified must, within five days after receipt of such notice, advise the comptroller of any and all such credits, or other personal property or debts in their possession, under their control, or owing by them, as the case may be.

(3) Any violation of the provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor and punishable as such.

212.11 Tax returns and regulations.—

(1) That the taxes levied hereunder upon rentals, admissions and sales of tangible personal property shall be due and payable monthly beginning on the first day of November, 1949, and for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of tax payable under this chapter, it shall be the duty of all dealers to make a return, on or before the twentieth day of the month to the comptroller, upon forms prepared and furnished by him, showing the rentals, admissions, gross sales or purchases as the case may be, arising from all leases, rentals, admissions, sales or purchases, taxable under this chapter during the preceding calendar month.

(2) Gross proceeds from rentals or leases of tangible personal property shall be reported and the tax shall be paid with respect thereto in accordance with such rules and regulations as the comptroller may prescribe.

(3) Whenever the tax on rentals of any machine described in § 212.08, shall amount to the total tax which would have been paid on said machine had the same been a sale rather than a rental, then there shall be no further rental tax collected thereon.

(4) Except as otherwise expressly provided for herein, it is hereby declared to be the intention of this chapter to impose a tax on the gross proceeds of all leases and rentals of tangible personal property in this state where the lease or rental is a part of the regularly established business, or the same is incidental or germane thereto.

212.12 Dealer's credit for collecting tax; penalties for noncompliance; powers of comptroller in dealing with delinquents; brackets applicable to taxable transactions; records required.—

(1) For the purpose of compensating the lessor of real and personal property taxed hereunder, and for the purpose of compensating dealers in tangible personal property and for the purpose of compensating owners of places where admissions are collected, as compensation for the keeping of prescribed records and the proper accounting and remitting of taxes by them, such seller, lessor, owner and dealer shall be allowed three per cent of the amount of the tax due and accounted for and remitted to the comptroller, in the form of a deduction in submitting his report and paying the amount due by him, and the comptroller shall allow the said deduction of three per cent of the amount of the tax to the person paying the same for remitting the tax in the manner herein provided, and for paying the amount due to be paid by him provided, however, that the three per cent allowance shall not be granted nor shall any deduction be permitted where the tax is delinquent at the time of payment, or where there is a manifest failure to maintain proper records or make proper prescribed reports; and as further compensation to dealers in tangible personal property for the keeping of prescribed records and collection of taxes and remitting the same, §§ 204.03 and 204.04, relating to inventory tax be and the same are hereby repealed.

(2) When any person, firm or corporation required hereunder to make any return or to pay any tax imposed by this chapter, shall fail to make such return or shall fail to pay such tax, within the time required hereunder, in addition to all other penalties provided herein, and by the laws of Florida in respect to such taxes, the specific penalty shall be added to the tax in the amount of five

per cent if the failure is for not more than thirty days, with an additional five per cent for each additional thirty days, or fraction thereof, during the time which the failure continues, not to exceed, however, a total penalty of twenty-five per cent in the aggregate. In the case of a false or fraudulent return or a wilful intent to evade payment of any tax imposed under this chapter, in addition to the other penalties provided by law, the person making such false or fraudulent return or wilfully attempting to evade the payment of such a tax shall be liable to a specific penalty of fifty per cent of the tax bill and for fine and punishment as provided by law for a conviction of a misdemeanor.

(3) When any dealer, or other person charged herein, fails to remit the tax, or any portion thereof, on or before the day when such tax shall be required by law to be paid, there shall be added to the amount due interest at the rate of six per cent per annum from the date due until paid.

(4) All penalties and interest imposed by this chapter shall be payable to and collectible by the comptroller in the same manner as if they were a part of the tax imposed.

(5) The comptroller for good cause shown by written request, may extend, but not to exceed thirty days, the time for making any returns required under the provisions of this chapter, and may compromise penalties after his investigation reveals that the penalty would be too severe or unjust, but interest shall be collected.

(6) In the event any dealer, or other person charged herein, fails to make a report and pay the tax as provided by this chapter, or in case any person receiving rentals, or any dealer, owner or person charged herein with the duty to report, fails to make a report, or makes a grossly incorrect report, or makes a report that is false or fraudu-

lent, then in either such event, it shall be the duty of the comptroller to make an assessment from an estimate for the taxable period of retail sales of such dealer, or of the gross proceeds from rentals, or the total admissions received or amounts received from leases of tangible personal property by a dealer, and an assessment from an estimate of the cost price of all articles of tangible personal property imported by the dealer for use or consumption or distribution or storage to be used or consumed in this state of tangible personal property with interest, plus penalty, if such have accrued, and as the case may be, then the comptroller shall proceed to collect such taxes on the basis of such assessment, which shall be considered prima facie correct, and the burden to show the contrary shall rest upon the dealer, seller, owner or lessor as the case may be.

(7) The comptroller is given the power to prescribe the records to be kept by all persons subject to taxes imposed by this chapter and it shall be the duty of every person required to make a report and pay any tax under this chapter, and every person receiving rentals, and owners of places of admission, to keep and preserve suitable records of the sales, leases, rentals, admissions, or purchases, as the case may be, taxable under this chapter, and such other books of account as may be necessary to determine the amount of tax due hereunder, and other information as may be required by the comptroller; and it shall be the duty of every such person so charged with such duty, moreover, to keep and preserve, for a period of two years, all invoices and other records of goods, wares and merchandise, records of admissions, leases and rentals and all other subjects of taxation under this chapter; and all such books, invoices and other records shall be open to examination at all reasonable hours to the comptroller or any of his duly authorized agents.

(8) In the event the dealer has imported the tangible personal property and he fails to produce an invoice, show-

ing the cost price of the articles as defined in this chapter, which are subject to tax, or the invoice does not reflect the true or actual cost price as defined herein, then the comptroller shall ascertain, in any manner feasible, the true cost price, and assess and collect the tax thereon with interest plus penalties, if such have accrued on the true cost price as assessed by him. The assessment so made shall be considered *prima facie* correct, and the duty shall be on the dealer to show to the contrary.

(9) In the case of the lease or rental of tangible personal property, or other rentals as herein defined and taxed, if the consideration given or reported by the lessor, person receiving rental or dealer does not, in the judgment of the comptroller, represent the true or actual consideration, then the comptroller is authorized to ascertain the same and assess and collect the tax thereon in the same manner as above provided, with respect to imported tangible property, together with interest, plus penalties, if such have accrued.

(10) Taxes imposed by this chapter upon the privilege of the use, consumption, or storage for consumption, or sale of tangible personal property, admissions and rentals as herein taxed shall be collected upon the basis of an addition of three per cent to the total price of such admissions, rentals, or sale price of such article or articles that are purchased, sold or leased at any one time by or to a customer or buyer, and the dealer, or person charged herein, is required to pay a privilege tax of three per cent of the total of his gross sales of tangible personal property, admissions, and rentals, and such person or dealer shall add three per cent to the price, rental or admissions and collect the total sum from the purchaser, admittee, lessee or consumer. That notwithstanding the rate of taxes imposed upon the privilege of sales, admissions and rentals, and in order to avoid fractions of pennies, the following brackets shall be applicable to such taxable transactions:

(a) On single sales of less than eleven cents no tax shall be added.

(b) On single sales in amounts from eleven cents to thirty-five cents, both inclusive, one cent shall be added for taxes.

(c) On sales in amounts from thirty-six cents to sixty-five cents, both inclusive, two cents shall be added for taxes.

(d) On sales in amounts from sixty-six cents to one dollar, both inclusive, three cents shall be added for taxes.

(e) On sales in amounts of more than one dollar, three per cent shall be charged upon each dollar of price, plus the above bracket charges upon any fractional part of a dollar in excess of even dollars.

Single sales are to be considered as the total sales of tangible personal property, admissions, or rentals made to a customer or combination of customers at any one time, inclusive of total sales made on any one visit to a place of sale. Place of sale shall be taken to mean a store or other place of business where property taxed hereunder is offered for sale at retail, or where stores are arranged in departments, at any one department. The comptroller may by rules and regulations not inconsistent with this chapter, further define single sales for the purpose of enforcement of uniformity in tax collections hereunder.

(11) It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent, that wherever in the construction, administration or enforcement of this chapter there may be any question, respecting a duplication of the tax, that the end consumer, or last retail sale shall be the sale intended to be taxed and in so far as may be practicable there be no duplication or pyramiding of the tax.

(12) In order to aid the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter with respect to the rentals,

each lessor of any hotel, apartment house, rooming house, tourist or trailer camp, or any interest therein, or any portion thereof, inclusive of owners, property managers, lessors, landlords, hotel, apartment house and rooming house operators and all licensed real estate agents within the state leasing or renting such property, shall be required to keep a record of each and every such lease and/or rental transaction which is taxable under this chapter, in such a manner and upon such forms as the comptroller may prescribe, and to report such transaction to the comptroller, or his designated agents, and to maintain such records for a period of not less than two years, subject to the inspection of the comptroller and his agents, and failure of such owner, property manager, lessor, landlord, hotel, apartment house, rooming house, tourist or trailer camp operator, or real estate agent to keep and maintain such records and to make such reports upon the forms and in the manner prescribed, shall be deemed to be a misdemeanor and upon conviction, such owner, property manager, lessor, landlord, hotel, apartment, rooming house, tourist or trailer camp operator, receiver of rent, property manager or real estate agent shall be subject to a fine of not less than fifty dollars, nor more than two hundred dollars or imprisonment in the county jail for not less than ten days nor more than thirty days, or both, for the first offense; and for subsequent offenses, they shall each be subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars and by imprisonment in the county jail of not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

212.13 Records required to be kept; power to inspect.—

(1) For the purpose of enforcing the collection of the tax levied by this chapter, the comptroller is hereby specifically authorized and empowered to examine at all reasonable hours the books, records; and other documents of all transportation companies, agencies, or firms that conduct

their business by truck, rail, water, aircraft, or otherwise, in order to determine what dealers, or other persons charged with the duty to report or pay a tax under this chapter, are importing or are otherwise shipping in articles of tangible personal property which are liable for said tax. In the event said transportation company, agency or firm shall refuse to permit such examination of its books, records, or other documents by the comptroller as aforesaid, it shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than fifty nor more than five hundred dollars; provided further, that the comptroller shall have the right to proceed in any chancery court to seek a mandatory injunction or other appropriate remedy to enforce his right against the offender as granted by this section, to require an examination of the books and records of such transportation company or carrier.

(2) Each dealer, as defined in this chapter, shall secure, maintain, and keep for a period of two years a complete record of tangible personal property received, used, sold at retail, distributed or stored, leased or rented within this state by said dealer together with invoices, bills of lading, gross receipts from such sales and other pertinent records and papers as may be required by the comptroller for the reasonable administration of this chapter, and all of such records shall be open for inspection to the comptroller at all reasonable hours. Any dealer subject to the provisions of this chapter who shall violate these provisions shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished as provided by the general law.

(3) For the purpose of enforcement of this chapter, every manufacturer and seller of tangible personal property licensed within this state is required to permit the comptroller to examine their books and records at all reasonable hours, and upon their refusal the comptroller may require them to permit such examination by resort to the

circuit courts of this state, subject however to the right of removal of the cause to the judicial circuit wherein such person's business is located or wherein such person's books and records are kept, provided further that such person's books and records are kept within the state.

(4) For the further purpose of enforcement of this chapter every wholesaler of tangible personal property licensed within this state is required to permit the comptroller to examine their books and records at all reasonable hours. They must also maintain such books, and records, for a period of not less than twelve months, in order to disclose the sales of all goods sold, and to whom sold, and also the amount of items sold, in such form and in such manner as the comptroller may reasonably require, and so as to permit the comptroller to determine the volume of goods sold by wholesalers to dealers, as defined under this chapter, and the dates and amount of sales made. The comptroller may require any manufacturer or wholesaler who refuses to keep such records or to permit such inspection through the circuit courts of Florida to submit to such inspection, subject however to the right of removal of the cause as hereinbefore provided in this section.

212.14 Comptroller's powers; hearings, subpoena; distress warrants.—

(1) Any person required to pay a tax imposed under this chapter, or to make a return, either or both, and who renders a return or makes a payment of a tax with intent to deceive or defraud the state, and to prevent the state from collecting the amount of taxes imposed by this chapter, or otherwise fails to comply with the provisions of this chapter for the taxable period for which any return is made, or any tax is paid, or any report is made to the comptroller, may be required by the comptroller to show cause before the comptroller, or his designated agents, at

a time and place to be set by the comptroller; after ten days' notice in writing requiring such books, records or papers as the comptroller may require relating to the business of such person for such tax period, and the comptroller may require such person, or persons, or their employee or employees to give testimony under oath and answer interrogatories by the comptroller, or his assistant, respecting the sale, use, consumption, distribution or storage rental of real or personal property within the state, or admissions collected therein, or the failure to make a true report thereof, as provided by this chapter, or failure to pay the true amount of the tax required to be paid under this chapter. At said hearing, in the event such person fails to produce such books, records or papers, or to appear and answer questions within the scope and investigation relating to matters concerning taxes to be imposed under this chapter, or prevents or impedes his or her agents or employees from giving testimony, then the comptroller is authorized under this chapter to estimate any unpaid deficiencies in taxes, to be assessed against such person upon such information as may be available to him and to issue a distress warrant for the collection of such taxes, interest or penalties estimated by him to be due and payable, and such assessment shall be deemed prima facie correct. In such cases said warrant shall be issued to any sheriff in the state where such person owns or possesses any property and such property as may be required to satisfy any such taxes, interest or penalties shall be by such sheriff seized and sold under said distress warrant in the same manner as property is permitted to be seized and sold under distress warrants issued to secure the payments of delinquent taxes as hereinafter provided, however, that respecting the place for the holding of a hearing, by the comptroller or his agents, as provided in this section, the person whose tax return or report being investigated, may by written request to the comptroller require the hearing to be set at a place

within the judicial circuit of Florida wherein the person's business is located, or within the judicial circuit of Florida wherein such person's books and records are kept.

(2) Wherever returns are required to be made to the comptroller hereunder the full amount of the taxes required to be paid as shown by said return shall be paid and accompany said return, and the failure to remit said full amount of taxes at the time of making said return shall cause said taxes to become delinquent. All taxes and all interest and penalties imposed under this chapter shall be paid to the comptroller at Tallahassee, or to such designated offices throughout the state as the comptroller may from time to time designate and in the form of remittance required by him.

(3) The comptroller may require all reports of taxes to be paid under this chapter to be accompanied with a written statement, of the person or by an officer of any firm or corporation required to pay such taxes, setting forth such facts as the comptroller may reasonably require in order to advise the comptroller as to the amount of taxes that are due and payable upon said return. Any person or any duly authorized corporation officer or agent, members of any firm or incorporated society, or organization who refuses to make a return as required by the comptroller and in the manner and in the form that the comptroller may require or to state in writing that the return is correct to the best of his knowledge and belief, as so required by the comptroller, shall upon conviction be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished accordingly. The signing of a written return shall have the same legal effect as if made under oath without the necessity of appending such oath thereto.

(4) In all cases where it is necessary to insure compliance with the provisions of this chapter the comptroller shall require a cash deposit, bond, or other security as a condi-

tion to a person obtaining, or retaining, a dealer's permit under this chapter. Such bond shall be in the form and such amount as the comptroller deems appropriate under the particular circumstances. Any security required to be deposited may be sold by the comptroller at public sale if it becomes necessary so to do in order to recover any tax, interest or penalty due. Notice of such sale may be served upon the person who deposited such securities personally or by mail. If by mail, notice sent to the last known address, as the same appears in the records of the comptroller's office shall be sufficient for the purpose of this requirement. Upon such sale the surplus, if any above the amount due under this chapter, shall be returned to the person who deposited the security.

212.15 Taxes declared state funds, penalties for embezzlement; due and delinquent dates; appeals.—

(1) The taxes imposed by this chapter shall become state funds from the moment of collection, and § 812.10, relating to embezzlement by state, county or municipal officers shall apply to every person who collects any taxes imposed by this chapter.

(2) The taxes imposed by this chapter shall for each month be due to the comptroller on the first day of the succeeding month and delinquent on the twenty-first day of such month.

(3) All taxes collected under this chapter shall be remitted to the comptroller. The comptroller is empowered and it shall be his duty, when any tax becomes delinquent under this chapter, to issue a warrant for the full amount of the tax due or estimated to be due, together with the interest, penalties and cost of collection, directed to all and singular the sheriffs of the state, and mail such warrant to the sheriff of the county wherein any property of the taxpayer is located; and upon receipt of such warrant,

the sheriff shall record the same in the office of the clerk of the circuit court of said county and thereupon the amount of such warrant shall become a lien upon the title to any real or personal property of such taxpayer, situated in said county, against whom such warrant is issued in the same manner as a judgment duly docketed and recorded in the office of such clerk of the circuit court. Upon the recording of such warrant, the clerk of the circuit court shall issue execution thereon, the same as on a judgment. Such sheriff shall thereupon proceed in all respects and with like effect and in the same manner as prescribed by law and in respect to executions issued against property upon judgment of the circuit court and shall be entitled to the same fees for his services in executing the warrant to be collected. Upon payment of such execution, warrant or judgment the comptroller shall within thirty days, satisfy the lien of record and is hereby specifically authorized and directed to do so.

(4) If any taxpayer or person required by this chapter to remit taxes to the comptroller shall feel aggrieved by any action of the comptroller, he shall have the right within thirty days to appeal to the comptroller for rehearing and re-examination and in support thereof may submit such data as may be relevant. If the comptroller's decision is determined adversely to the taxpayer or person required by this chapter to remit to the comptroller, such person shall have the right within thirty days from notice of such determination to have the comptroller's determination reviewed in appropriate proceedings in any of the circuit courts of Florida, and in such review there shall be no presumption in favor of the comptroller's findings.

212.151 Jurisdiction of suits for violation of revenue act; service on retailers, dealers or vendors not qualified to do business in state.—In all suits brought hereafter in any of the courts of this state by the comptroller against

any retailer, dealer or vendor for any violation of the Florida revenue act of 1949, such suits shall be brought thereon in the circuit courts of this state having jurisdiction of the subject matter. Every retailer, dealer or vendor not qualified to do business in this state shall designate with the comptroller an agent for service within the state for the purpose of enforcing this chapter. If a retailer, dealer or vendor has not designated or shall fail to designate with the comptroller an agent for service within the state, then the secretary of state shall be deemed the agent for service, or any agent or employee of the retailer, dealer or vendor within the state shall be deemed agent for service.

212.16 Importation of goods, permits; seizure for non-compliance, procedure, review.—

(1) For the protection of the revenue of this state, to prevent the illegal importation of tangible personal property which is subject to tax in this state, and to strengthen and make more effective the manner and method of enforcing payment of the tax imposed by this chapter, the comptroller is hereby authorized and empowered to put into operation, a system of permits whereby any person or dealer as defined in this chapter may import tangible personal property by truck, automobile, or other means of transportation other than a common carrier, without having said truck, automobile, or other means of transportation seized and subjected to legal proceedings for its forfeiture. Such system of permits shall require the person or dealer who desires to import tangible personal property into this state, which property is subject to tax imposed by this chapter, to apply to the comptroller or his designated agent for a permit stating the kind of vehicle to be used, the name of the driver, the license number of the vehicle, the kind of character of tangible personal property to be imported, the date, the name and address of

the consignee and such other information as the comptroller may deem proper or necessary to prevent the illegal transportation of tangible personal property into this state. Such permit shall be free of cost to the applicant and may be obtained from the comptroller or any of his designated agents.

(2) The importation into this state of tangible personal property which is subject to tax, by truck, automobile, or other means of transportation other than a common carrier without having first obtained a permit as hereinabove described (if the tax imposed by this chapter on the said tangible personal property has not been paid), shall be construed as an attempt to evade payment of the said tax and the same is hereby prohibited and the said truck, automobile or other means of transportation, other than that of common carrier, and said taxable property may be seized by the comptroller in order to secure the same as evidence in a trial and the same shall be subject to forfeiture and sale in the manner provided for in this chapter. No permit shall be required to transport personal effects of a driver, owner, or passengers of any private automobile or carrier vehicle not engaged in carrying goods for resale within the state; provided, that the comptroller may issue a regular permit (which shall be good for not more than one year) to a person to whom a dealer's certificate has been issued and who is regularly or frequently importing into the state tangible personal property in trucks owned by him in connection with his own business, requiring that reports, copies of sales documents, and other information may be filed at regular or frequent intervals with the comptroller after importation of tangible personal property subject to the tax, and the comptroller may require as a condition for the issuance of such regular permit that such person post a bond payable to the comptroller in an amount sufficient to guarantee payment of the tax on such goods as may be imported by such

person, which amount the comptroller shall set. Such permit shall be free of cost to the applicant.

(3) Subject to the above stated exception of private vehicles, any truck, automobile, or other means of transportation other than a common carrier which is used to import into this state tangible personal property which is subject to tax under this chapter, together with the contents thereof, is hereby declared to be contraband and subject to confiscation unless a permit as herein above described was first obtained. The comptroller may confiscate any such truck, automobile, or other means of transportation other than common carrier together with its contents whenever the same is found to be importing without permit tangible personal property, the sale or use of which is taxable under this chapter.

(4) Upon seizure for confiscation, the comptroller or his representatives shall appraise the value of the vehicle and its said contents according to his best judgment and shall deliver to the person, if any found in possession of such property, a receipt showing the fact of seizure, from whom seized, the place of seizure, a description of the vehicle and contents seized. A copy of said receipt shall be filed in the office of the comptroller and shall be open to public inspection.

(5) The comptroller, or any representative of the comptroller, shall within thirty days advertise the said vehicle and its contents or other property so seized for sale to the highest bidder by one proper notice in a newspaper published in the county where the property is to be sold, if the county has such a newspaper, if there is no newspaper in such county, then by notice on the courthouse door, at least thirty days prior to the date of sale and contain a description of the vehicle and property to be sold.

(6) Any person claiming any property so seized as contraband goods, may, at any time before the sale, file

with the comptroller, at Tallahassee, a claim in writing requesting a hearing and stating his interest in the article seized. The comptroller shall set a date and place for hearing within ten days from the day the claim is filed. The comptroller is hereby empowered to subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance at the hearing authorized under this chapter. All parties to the proceeding including the person claiming such property shall have the right to have subpoenas issued by the comptroller to compel the attendance of all witnesses deemed by such parties to be necessary for a full and complete hearing. All witnesses shall be entitled to the witness fees and mileage provided by law for legal witnesses, which fees and mileages shall be paid as a part of the cost of the proceeding.

(7) In the event the ruling of the comptroller is favorable to the claimant, the comptroller shall deliver to the claimant the vehicle or property so seized. If the ruling of the comptroller is adverse to the claimant, the comptroller shall proceed to sell such contraband goods in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this chapter. The expense of storage and transportation, shall be adjudged as part of the cost of the proceedings in such manner as the comptroller shall fix pending any proceeding to recover a vehicle or other property seized under this chapter. The comptroller may order delivery thereof to any claimant who shall execute with one or more sureties, approved by the comptroller, and deliver to the comptroller, a bond in favor of the state for the payment of a sum double the appraised value thereof as of the time of the hearing; and providing further that if the vehicle or other property is not returned at the time of the hearing the bond shall stand in lieu of, and be forfeited in the same manner as such vehicle or other property.

(8) The action of the comptroller may be reviewed by a petition for common law writ of certiorari addressed to

the circuit court of any county wherein said hearing was held which petition shall be filed within ten days from the date the order of the comptroller is made.

(9) Immediately upon the granting of the writ of certiorari the comptroller shall cause to be made, certified, and forwarded to said court a complete transcript of the proceeding in said cause, which shall contain all the proofs submitted before the comptroller. All defendants named in the petition desiring to make defense, shall answer or otherwise plead to said petition within ten days from the date of the filing of said transcript unless the time be extended by the court.

(10) Said decision of the comptroller shall be reviewed by the circuit court solely upon the pleadings and transcript of the evidence before the comptroller, and neither party shall be entitled to introduce any additional evidence in the circuit court. The confiscated vehicle or goods shall not be sold pending such review but shall be stored by the comptroller until the final disposition of said case.

(11) Within the discretion of the comptroller, the claimant may be awarded possession of the confiscated goods pending the decision of the circuit court under the petition for certiorari, provided the claimant shall be required to execute a bond payable to the state, in an amount double the value of the property seized, the sureties to be approved by the comptroller. The condition of the bond shall be that the obligors shall pay to the state, the full value of the vehicle or goods seized unless upon certiorari the decision of the comptroller shall be reversed and the property awarded to the claimant.

(12) If no claim is interposed such vehicle, or other goods shall be forfeited without further proceedings and the same sold as hereinabove provided. The above procedure is the sole remedy of any claimant and no court

shall have jurisdiction to interfere therewith by replevin, injunction, supersedeas, or in any other manner.

(13) Any funds derived from the sale of confiscated vehicles or other goods shall be distributed or allocated in the same manner as other funds derived from the taxing statute.

212.17 Credits for returned goods, rentals, or admissions; additional powers of comptroller.—

(1) In the event purchases are returned to the dealer by the purchaser or consumer after the tax imposed by this chapter has been collected, or charged to the account of the consumer or used, the dealer shall be entitled to reimbursement of the amount of tax collected or charged by him, in the manner prescribed by the comptroller; and in case the tax has not been remitted by the dealer to the comptroller, the dealer may deduct the same in submitting his return upon receipt of a signed statement of the dealer as to the gross amount of such refunds during the period covered by said signed statement, which period shall not be longer than ninety days. The comptroller shall issue to the dealer an official credit memorandum equal to the net amount remitted by the dealer for such tax collected. Such memorandum shall be accepted by the comptroller at full face value from the dealer to whom it is issued, in the remittance for subsequent taxes accrued under the provisions of this chapter, provided in cases where a dealer has retired from business and has filed a final return, a refund of tax may be made if it can be established to the satisfaction of the comptroller that the tax was not due.

(2) The comptroller shall design, prepare print and furnish to all dealers, or make available to said dealers, all necessary forms for filing returns and instructions to insure a full collection from dealers and an accounting for the taxes due, but failure of any dealer to secure such

forms shall not relieve such dealer from the payment of said tax at the time and in the manner herein provided.

(3) The comptroller and his assistants are hereby authorized and empowered to administer the oath for the purpose of enforcing and administering the provisions of this chapter.

(4) The comptroller shall have the power to make, prescribe and publish reasonable rules and regulations not inconsistent with this chapter, or the other laws, or the constitution of this state, or the United States, for the enforcement of the provisions of his chapter and the collection of revenue hereunder, and such rules and regulations shall when enforced be deemed to be reasonable and just.

(5) The comptroller, where admissions or rental payments are made and thereafter returned to the payers, after the taxes thereon have been paid, shall return or credit the taxpayer for taxes so paid on the monies returned in the same manner as is provided for returns or credits of taxes where purchases or tangible personal property are returnable to a dealer.

212.18 Administration of law; rules and regulations.—

(1) The cost of preparing and distributing the reports, forms and paraphernalia for the collection of said tax and the inspection and enforcement duties required herein shall be borne by the revenue produced by this chapter, provisions for which are hereinafter made.

(2) The comptroller shall administer and enforce the assessment and collection of the taxes, interest, and penalties imposed by this chapter. He is authorized to make and publish such rules and regulations not inconsistent with this chapter, as he may deem necessary in enforcing its provisions in order that there shall not be collected on

the average more than the rate levied herein. The comptroller is authorized to and he shall provide by rule and regulation a method for accomplishing this end. He shall prepare instructions to all persons required by this chapter to collect and remit the tax to guide such persons in the proper collection and remission of such tax and to instruct such persons in the practices that may be necessary for the purpose of enforcement of this chapter and the collection of the tax imposed hereby. The use of tokens in the collection of this tax is hereby expressly forbidden and prohibited.

(3) Every person desiring to engage in or conduct business as a dealer as defined in this chapter, or in leasing, renting or letting of living quarters, sleeping or housekeeping accommodations in hotels, apartment houses, rooming houses, tourist or trailer camps, as hereinbefore defined in this chapter, in this state shall file with the comptroller a certificate of registration for each place of business, show the name of the interested persons in such business, their residences, the address of the business, and such other data as the comptroller may reasonably require. Such application shall be made to the comptroller on or before thirty days after November 1, 1949, or on or before such person, firm or corporation may engage in such business, and it shall be accompanied by a registration fee of one dollar. The comptroller, upon receipt of such application will grant to the applicant, a separate certificate of registration for each place of business within the state which certificate shall not be assignable and shall be valid only for the person, firm or corporation to whom issued, and such certificate shall be placed in a conspicuous place in the business or businesses for which it is issued, and so displayed at all times. No person shall engage in business as a dealer, or in leasing, renting or letting of living quarters, sleeping or housekeeping accommodations in hotels, apartment houses, rooming houses, tourist or trailer camps,

as hereinbefore defined in this chapter, on or before thirty days after November 1, 1949, without first having obtained such a certificate, and no person shall receive any license from any authority within the state to engage in any such business after November 1, 1949, without first having obtained such a certificate. The engaging in the business of selling or leasing tangible personal property or as a dealer as defined in this chapter, or engaging in leasing, renting or letting of living quarters, sleeping or house-keeping accommodations in hotels, apartment houses, or rooming houses, or tourist or trailer camps, as hereinbefore defined in this chapter, without such certificate first had and obtained within the time limits set forth above, is hereby prohibited.

(4) The comptroller is hereby given the authority to purchase such supplies and equipment as may be necessary and incur any other necessary expenses as are proper for the enforcement and administration of this chapter.

212.19 All state agencies to cooperate in administration of law.—The state hotel and restaurant commission and the state beverage department shall, within fifteen days after November 1, 1949, supply to the comptroller a complete list of all persons, places and establishments licensed by them. The comptroller is further empowered to call on any state agency, department, bureau or board for any and all information which may, in his judgment, be of assistance in administering or preparing for the administration of this chapter, and such state agency, department, bureau or board is hereby authorized, directed and required to furnish such information.

212.20 Funds collected, disposition; additional powers of comptroller.—

(1) The comptroller shall pay over to the treasurer of the state, all funds received and collected by him under

the provisions of this chapter, to be credited to the account of the general revenue fund of the state.

(2) The comptroller is authorized to employ all necessary assistants to administer this chapter properly and is also authorized to purchase all necessary supplies and equipment which may be required for this purpose, and in order to put the chapter into effect, the sum of fifty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as is necessary, is hereby appropriated out of the general revenue fund for use by the comptroller in purchasing supplies, equipment, etc., to begin the administration of this chapter.

(3) All necessary expenses of employees to administer this chapter shall be paid in the manner provided by law applicable to expenses of other state officials and employees.

(4) In addition to all other appropriations made by law to the comptroller, there is hereby appropriated from the general revenue fund a sum not to exceed three percent of the tax collected under the provisions of this chapter to be used by the comptroller for the administration and enforcement thereof; provided, however, the provisions of this section relating to administrative expense shall become null and void and of no effect after June 30, 1951, and in no wise shall be construed as a continuing appropriation after such date.

(5) There is hereby appropriated out of the general revenue fund from the net proceeds of the tax collected under this chapter, a sum which added to all other sums appropriated by law to said fund will equal the amount of the total appropriation contained in the general appropriation act (chapter 282), as passed and enacted into law by the 1949 regular or extraordinary session of the legislature. Any surplus monies remaining in the general revenue fund from the net proceeds of the tax levied and

collected under this chapter after meeting in full the appropriations hereinabove set forth, shall be impounded in said fund and expended only under the express authority of future, regular or extraordinary sessions of the legislature.

212.21 Declaration of legislative intent.—

(1) If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this chapter is for any reason held or declared to be unconstitutional, invalid, inoperative, ineffective, inapplicable, or void, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not be construed to affect the portions of the chapter not so held to be unconstitutional, void, invalid, or ineffective, or affect the application of this chapter to other circumstances not so held to be invalid, it being hereby declared to be the express legislative intent that any such unconstitutional, illegal, invalid, ineffective, inapplicable or void, portion or portions of this chapter did not induce its passage, and that without the inclusion of any such unconstitutional, illegal, invalid, ineffective or void portions of this chapter, the legislature would have enacted the valid and constitutional portions thereof.

(2) It is hereby declared to be the specific legislative intent to tax each and every sale, admission, use, storage, consumption, or rental levied and set forth in this chapter except as to such sale, admission, use, storage, consumption, or rental, as shall be specifically exempted therefrom, subject to the conditions appertaining to such exemption. It is further declared to be the specific legislative intent that should any exemption or attempted exemption from the tax or the operation or imposition of the tax or taxes be declared to be invalid, ineffective, inapplicable, unconstitutional or void for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the tax or taxes imposed herein, but such sale, admission, use, storage, consumption or rental or any of them exempted or attempted to be exempted from the tax

or taxes or the operation or the imposition of the tax or taxes, shall be subject to the tax or taxes and the operation and imposition thereof to the same extent as if such exemption or attempted exemption had never been included herein.

(3) It is further declared to be the specific legislative intent to exempt from the tax or taxes or from the operation or the imposition thereof only such sales, admissions, uses, storages, consumption or rentals in relation to or in respect of the things set forth as exempted from the tax, as may be exempted in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the state and of the United States, and it is further declared to be the specific legislative intent to tax each and every the taxable privileges made subject to the tax or taxes or the operation of the tax or taxes, or the imposition of the tax or taxes except such sales, admissions, uses, storages, consumption or rentals as are specifically exempted therefrom, and such exemption is made only to the extent that such exemption may be made in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the state and of the United States.

(4) It being further declared to be the specific legislative intent that in the event any exemption or attempted exemption of any sale, admissions, use, storage, consumption or rental from the tax or taxes imposed by this chapter is for any reason declared to be unconstitutional, ineffective, inapplicable or void, that then and in such event each and every such sale, admission, use, storage, consumption or rental shall be subject to the tax or taxes imposed by this chapter as fully and to the same extent as if such exemption or attempted exemption had never been included herein, it being declared to be the specific legislative intent that no unconstitutional, invalid, ineffective, inapplicable or void exemption or attempted exemption or exemptions or attempted exemptions induced the passage of this chap-

ter, it being further declared to be the specific legislative intent that without the inclusion herein of any such unconstitutional, invalid, ineffective, inapplicable or void exemption or attempted exemption; exemptions or attempted exemptions, the valid portions of this chapter would have been enacted; provided, however, that should the provisions, or any one or more of them, set forth in § 212.22, requiring two certain other and separate acts of the 1949 extraordinary session of the legislature to become laws as conditions precedent to this act becoming a law, for any reason to be held or declared to be unconstitutional, inoperative or void, then in such event it is not intended that § 212.22 or any part thereof be separable from any of the remaining provisions of this chapter, but in such event it is expressly intended that this chapter be inseparable in its entirety.

212.22 Savings provisions.—Nothing herein contained shall be construed as repealing any general or special act authorizing a municipality to levy a special tax upon admission tickets which said tax is now being levied by such municipality.

212.23 Effective date; additional declaration of legislative intent.—It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that this chapter is an integral part of a revenue program, which program includes, in addition to the provisions set forth in this chapter, certain aid to municipalities through another and separate act (ch. 210) designed to authorize municipalities to levy a tax up to five cents per package on cigarettes, which tax shall be collected by the state beverage director and remitted to the municipalities levying such taxes pursuant to said other act, and certain aid to counties through another and separate act (§ 208.44), designed to allocate to the several counties of the state, the proceeds of the so-called "7th Cent Gas Tax" in the manner as provided in said other

and separate act, both of which said other and separate acts are acts passed or to be passed in the 1949 extraordinary session of the legislature; and it is the legislative intent that the tax hereby levied in this chapter shall not levy unless and until the said two other and separate acts shall become law. Therefore, this chapter shall take effect November 1st, 1949, immediately after and only after the said two other and separate acts become law. Provided, however, if for any reason either of the two said other and separate acts should fail to become a law then in such event it is the declared legislative intent that this chapter shall not take effect but shall be inoperative and void.